REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. By this Response, claim 1 is amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yuasa et al. (US 4,679,077). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yuasa discloses a visual image sensor system comprising a number of cameras (l I to I n of Fig 1), The cameras are connected to a camera selector switch (2 of Fig 1). In brief, the camera selector switch (2 of Fig 1) selects image data from one of the cameras and transmits this image data, via e.g., a synchronous signal separator circuit (3 of Fig 1), to a number of analyzing devices, such as a primary change detector (10 of Fig 1), in which the image data is analyzed. Since several cameras (I_1 to I_n of Fig 1) share the same analyzing devices, the visual image sensor system must be considered to be a centralized system.

This is further shown in a second embodiment (Fig 21) of the visual image sensor system. The visual image sensor system according to the second embodiment (Fig 21; col 18, lines 64-68 - col 19, lines 1-23) comprises an image pick-up (91 of Fig 21) arranged to register picture data into a memory (92 of Fig 21). Then, "current picture data with illumination and current picture data without illumination are compared with the respective standard picture by comparing means included in the controller unit 94" (col 19, lines 8-11).

In contrast, the monitoring system described by the present invention comprises a plurality of monitoring modules and a monitoring station. Unlike the visual image sensor system described by Yuasa et al, the analysis of the image data is made within each of the monitoring modules. Since the analysis of the image data is made within each of the monitoring modules,

the monitoring system according to the present invention is to be considered as a distributed system.

A great advantage of having a distributed system instead of a centralized system is the improved scalability, which means that new monitoring modules may be added to the monitoring system easily. In other words, by adding a monitoring module according to the present invention to the monitoring system, extra image processing capacity is added as well. However, if a new camera is added to a visual image sensor system, i.e. a centralized system, according to Yuasa, the processing capacity of the analyzing devices, such as the primary change detector (10, Fig 1) and the secondary change detector (20 of Fig 3), have to be upgraded, unless spare capacity is available. Hence, by using a monitoring system according to the present invention, instead of a visual image sensor system according to Yuasa, a more efficient solution is achieved.

Therefore, the present invention as defined by the claims is different than Yuasa's teachings in that the embodiments of the present invention provide a means for analyzing the captured image data per monitoring module, and further provides a means for analyzing the captured data within the monitoring module.

Also, the embodiments of the present invention differ from Yuasa's teachings in that if a human alarm object is detected, data is transmitted from the monitoring module to the monitoring station. By only transmitting data when a human alarm object is detected, less data has to be transmitted from the monitoring modules to the monitoring station.

Moreover, if a human alarm object is detected data representing only the extracted area of the image in a stylized way is transmitted from the monitoring module to tile monitoring station. By only transmitting data in a stylized way, the operator of the monitoring station is able to see that

the human alarm object represents a human, but not the identity of the person represented by the human alarm object.

Thus, Yuasu fails to teach recording, extracting, classifying for each of the monitoring modules as recited in claim 1, 6, and 9. Further, Yasua fails to teach transmitting data representing only the extracted area of the image in a stylized way to the monitoring station if the object is classified as a human alarm object.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6 and 9 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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